

Liberty Commentary May 12, 2008

We have recently commemorated the 100th anniversary of the first Mothers Day celebration on May 10, 1908. Inspired by the loss of her mother a few years earlier, Anna Jarvis crusaded for a special day in which women could be memorialized. Anna chose Sunday because she intended that Mothers Day should be commemorated and treated as a Holy Day.

The Bible says much about the importance of mothers and their influence on their family. The book of Proverbs says, “Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies”.

The Apostle Paul was awaiting his execution in a Roman prison and realized that he needed to select a Godly leader to take over the ministry that he had begun. Paul calls for Timothy whom Paul calls “my dearly beloved son”. Paul had chosen Timothy to join his ministry team some 15 years earlier on Paul’s second missionary journey. Paul had mentored Timothy for the past 15 years and now it was time to pass the responsibilities over to Timothy.

Timothy was raised in a single parent home. His mother was a Jew but his father who had passed away, was a Greek. Timothy really never fit in with either culture because he was half Jew and half Gentile. What is interesting is how this young man who came from a single parent home, from a mixed cultural background, was chosen by the greatest missionary and Christian of all time to take over the responsibilities of the worldwide ministry that Paul had established.

The key is in Timothy’s upbringing. Paul writes in II Timothy chapter 1, “When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice: and I am persuaded that in thee also”. The reason for Timothy’s great Christian character is because he learned it from

his mother and grandmother. Paul reminds Timothy in chapter three, “that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus”. Timothy’s mother and grandmother taught Timothy from a young age the Word of God and it impacted his life in a profound way.

Mothers, the greatest ministry God has called you to is the ministry of your family. Pray for your family, love your family, and be proud of your family. The greatest thing that you can do to instill character in your children is to teach them the word of God. That ought to be your number one priority. Teach Gods Word to your children and live out the teachings before them at home. Inculcate the teachings of the Bible in your heart and life and exemplify those principles in your life before your children. You ought to involve them in a church that has a strong emphasis on Bible teaching to help augment what they are being taught at home.

Young person, if you want to be wise and equipped for life, get into the word of God and hide it in your heart. Your spiritual training by your parents is good and necessary but you have a responsibility in this too, you must receive it and believe it and appropriate it into your life because it will make you a man or woman of God if you will allow the scriptures to reprove, correct and instruct you in righteousness.

Paul instructs Timothy to, “Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me”. Paul was telling Timothy don’t just do as I say but you do as I have done. Follow my example. Continue in the faith that was exhibited to you by your mother and grandmother and by me also.

Every parent, every mother, ought to be able to tell their children that I want you to do as I am doing. You ought to tell your children that they should love God with the same fervor that you love God.

You ought to tell them to have the same intensity for the things of God that you have for God. You ought to tell them to be unashamed of their faith in Christ just as you are unashamed of your faith.

Most likely our children will never rise above the level of spirituality that they see in us. Timothy saw a high standard of spirituality in his mother, grandmother and in Paul and it impacted his life in a profound way and now Timothy is about to take up the mantle and take over the ministry that God had begun through Paul. This would be a daunting task, but had it not been for the Godly influence of Timothy's mother and grandmother, Timothy would never have had the opportunity to minister to the world.

Anna Jarvis was correct. Mothers Day ought to be commemorated as a Holy Day because of the influence that a Godly mother has on shaping the lives her children so as to reflect the character of Jesus Christ that will impact both the current and future generation.

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